

churches,—Liberty,—was quarantined and we are sorry that we were prevented from meeting with the members at Riddlesburg; but the president of their Ladies' Aid Society attended our meeting at Yellow Creek to learn of the work of the S. S. C. E., and with the assistance of their pastor, who is enthusiastic in the work, they expect to organize under our constitution, as soon as the small-pox scare is over, and the church can be opened again. After an interesting drive of eighteen miles in a hack, leading thro the famous Yellow Creek Gap, past large bowlders, hills and mountains, we reached Martinsburg again,—home to Brother Paul's and Furry's. We are sorry to say their society has ceased to exist, but traces of the good work that had once existed, still remain. Their offering of \$5 07 exceeded all others, besides the \$2.00 pledge money, \$1.00 from Mrs. Geo. Paul, the other from Mrs. D. M. Klepser. But what is best of all, they are taking up the work again.

The following Sunday night we had an appointment with Brother Spanogle's congregation at McKees. It proved an extremely stormy night, yet withal, the audience was large. Here they had an active Ladies' Aid Society, which they had intended to reorganize as soon as the weather becomes more settled. McKees Gap is one of the coldest spots of Pennsylvania where "the wind is never weary." Thro a fault of mine, they were not apprised of my coming in time to be ready to organize at once, but at their reorganization they will adopt the S. S. C. E. constitution. Their usual Sunday evening offering, \$2.00 was given for the S. S. C. E. work. At Altoona, the next morning we found we had accomplished the wonderful feat of out-speeding the U. S. mail,—the card sent about a week before, announcing the meetings, was received the same morning of our arrival. But thro private efforts to interest the sisters in our work, we hope soon to see a report of a flourishing society in the Altoona church.

Our object in taking this trip is not money for the S. S. C. E., but simply to encourage old societies and organize new ones. A free will offering is always taken, sometimes for my benefit, but mostly for the support of the theological chair, out of which my expenses were met. After this it will be left for the local society or church to say for what purpose their offering is to be used for. May each society be prompt to remit the semi-annual offering this spring—the first of April—promptness is one of the characteristics of the Bible Christian. Let us be faithful in the small affairs of life, never looking for reward here, but some day we'll hear, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

VIANNA DETWILER.

Altoona, Pa.

The best Christian will be the best citizen. He who is most loyal to God's law will be most obedient to the law of the land.—H. B. Gross.

## Our Young People

### Forward Into Light

Forward! be our watchword,  
Steps and voices joined;  
Seek the things before us,  
Not a look behind:  
Burns the fiery pillar  
At our army's head;  
Who shall dream of shrinking,  
By our Captain led?  
Forward thro the desert;  
Thro the toil and fight;  
Jordan flows before us,  
Zion beams with light!

Forward! flock of Jesus,  
Salt of all the earth,  
Till each yearning purpose  
Spring to glorious birth:  
Sick, they ask for healing;  
Blind, they grope for day;  
Pour upon the nations  
Wisdom's loving ray.  
Forward, out of error,  
Leave behind the night;  
Forward thro the darkness,  
Forward into light!

—Henry Alford.

### GROWTH IN GRACE

I Pet. 2: 1, 2; Phil. 3: 12, 13

Topic for April 9.

Grace is one of the great words of the Bible,—one of those words which as you study it, gets possession of you and fills you with evangelistic fervor. It is related of Moody that as he studied the Bible teaching about God's grace he became so enthused that he rushed into the street and stopping the first man he met said to him, "Do you know about God's grace?"

The grace of God which is unmerited favor toward us is wonderful for it was this grace that gave Jesus to the world and opened the door of salvation. It is the free gift of God (Eph. 2: 5) which we cannot grow into by any works of our own but must accept by faith. But having received it then we are to grow up in it more and more "till we all attain to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4: 13

Those who teach perfect, instantaneous, absolute sanctification must reject this glorious doctrine of growth in the Christian life. It is true that when we receive Christ there is a new life in us (Gal. 2: 20;) this life is of God and cannot sin willfully, (I John 3: 9) and by it we are able to keep our bodies in subjection, (I Cor. 9: 27; Gal. 5: 16, 17,) but as a little oak tree is as really an oak as an old tree so this life which we begin as babes in Christ, (Gal. 4: 19) may increase unto the stature of manhood. Eph. 4: 13. Therefore we are to add to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, etc. I Pet. 1: 5-10.

Just as there are conditions which help and conditions which hinder the growth of a plant, so there are helps and hindrances to the spiritual life. It will be our joy in this lesson to learn more of this wonderful grace and how we may increase in it.

#### SCRIPTURE LIGHT

1. Grace of God's favor. Rom. 11: 6; I Tim. 1: 9.
2. Grace as Christ's righteousness in us. Rom. 5: 20; John 1: 16.
3. The source of grace. II Tim. 2: 1; I Cor. 1: 4.
4. A varying gift. Rom. 12: 6.
5. A condition of receiving it. I Pet. 5: 5; Jas. 4: 6; Prov. 3: 34.
6. Growth in grace. I Pet. 2: 1, 2; II Thess. 1: 3; I Pet. 1: 5-10.
7. Means of growth, I Pet. 1: 2; II Cor. 3: 18. Prayer, Mark 14: 38. The Bible, II Tim. 3: 16. The church, Heb. 10: 25. Good reading, Phil. 4: 8. Good company, I John 1: 3. Good works, I Tim. 4: 7.
8. Ways of exercising grace. Rom. 12 or I Cor. 13.
9. Hindrances to grace. Heb. 10: 29; Rom. 8: 5-10; Gal. 5: 19-22.

10. The fulness of grace. I Pet. 2: 21-23; Eph. 4: 13; I John 3: 2.

#### Topics for Thought and Discussion

1. What is grace?
2. How is grace received?
3. How can we grow in grace?
4. What are some things in modern life which hinder growth in grace?
5. If we would grow in grace how must we choose our companions and pleasures?
6. How does the church and society help us to grow in grace?
7. When we lack what should we do? Heb. 4: 16. Other good scriptures: II Cor. 1: 12; Ps. 84: 11; Col. 4: 16; I Tim. 1: 2; Eccl. 10: 12.

C. F. YODER.

### BIBLE STUDY IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING

MARCUS A. WITTER

A mere glance at the spiritual condition of the Christian world is enough to convince us that all is not as we would like to have it be. When we see the young of our land laying their offerings of time, money, and talent on the altar of worldly amusements, when we see that their love is offered to mammon, and that fame, fortune, and pleasure are more diligently sought than is the Christ-life, we are forced to the conclusion that there is an imperative need of a kind of work that will develop a deeper spiritual life in our young people.

This is the excuse for the existence of the Young People's Societies and they have done much in this direction. Thro them many have been lead into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and many sleepy Christians have been converted into aggressive workers for the Master.

But while we see the good that has come from the young people's meetings, we cannot fail to see that they are not all that should be. Too often the meetings have been without fruits. Interest has been lacking and the Young People's Society has become a load to the church rather than an aid. While this state of affairs is doubtless brought about by a complication of causes, perhaps the most important cause is that we have failed to give Bible study sufficient prominence in our meetings.

Good music, fine literary productions, and recitations well rendered are all excellent aids in the young people's meetings but they alone cannot bring success. We must remember that it is the gospel and the gospel only that is the power which regenerates and builds up the soul until it attains the full stature of a Christian. And just so long as we depend upon human means, we will fail to make the Young People's Society a Christian success. Nothing will draw the people to the meetings like the word of God; nothing will hold their attention after they are there like the Word; nothing convicts of sin like the Word; nothing regenerates like the Word; and nothing feeds the Christian soul like the Word. How then are we to use this blessed Word in our young people's meeting so as to accomplish the most good?

The Bible is a great book. A great many kinds of spiritual food are to be found therein. To send one to the Bible for help with-